

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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8/15/15
ROFS

MINORITY

L.D. 1290

Date: 6/15/15

(Filing No. S-2(06)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 465, L.D. 1290, Bill, "An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act and Direct the Savings To Be Used for the State's Contribution toward the Costs of Education Funding"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act Subject To Approval by the Voters of the State'

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause and before section 1 the following:

'PART A'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 18 and 19 and inserting the following:

'PART B

Sec. B-1. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

"Do you favor repealing the Maine Clean Election Act?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 465, L.D. 1290

1 Governor shall proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days
2 after the date of the proclamation.

3 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
4 ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this
5 referendum.'

6 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
7 section number to read consecutively.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, removes the section
10 of the bill that states that money in the Maine Clean Election Fund must be used to
11 support education funding. It also makes the repeal of the Maine Clean Election Act
12 contingent upon approval of the voters of the State by referendum.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Approved: 06/12/15 *MJC*



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1290

LR 1074(02)

An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act and Direct the Savings To Be Used for the State's Contribution toward the Costs of Education Funding

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"(S-266)

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

- Current biennium referendum cost - General Fund
- Contingent current biennium revenue increase - General Fund
- Contingent current biennium cost increase - General Fund
- Contingent current biennium cost decrease - Other Special Revenue Funds
- Contingent current biennium revenue decrease - Other Special Revenue Funds

Referendum Costs

Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
Nov-15	General	Referendum	Standard

The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the number or size of the referendum questions requires production and delivery of a second ballot, an additional appropriation of \$107,250 may be required.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

If approved by the voters in a statewide referendum, the Maine Clean Election Act would be repealed. Repeal would increase General Fund revenue by \$2,000,000 annually from eliminating the annual transfer from the General Fund to the Maine Clean Election Fund (MCEF) at the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices (Commission). The MCEF revenue from collecting qualifying contributions from candidates and from receiving \$3 voluntary contributions from taxpayers would also be eliminated. Other Special Revenue Funds allocations to the Commission would be eliminated and payments to candidates would be stopped. One Registration and Reporting Officer position would be eliminated and 5 positions would need to be moved to the General Fund. These 5 positions relate to functions that would continue after repeal and General Fund appropriations would be required.

To the extent that taxpayers who owe money to the State at the end of the tax year currently elect to contribute \$3 to the Maine Clean Election Fund through the income tax form checkoff, General Fund and Local Government Fund revenue is reduced. This reduction would disappear. The amount received annually by this checkoff is approximately \$130,000.